GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Malnutrition among Women and Children
Naik Prof. Seetaram Ajmeera;Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of prevalent malnutrition among women and children in the country, particularly in tribal areas, if so, the number of malnourished, underweight and stunted women and children reported and the reasons therefor along with deaths reported therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(b) the details of the schemes being implemented for eradication of malnutrition and the funds allocated/ released and utilized along with the achievements made thereunder during the said period; scheme and State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the Government is also implementing a National Nutrition Mission to tackle malnutrition, if so, the objectives and targets fixed/achieved thereof along with the budgetary allocation made and funds utilized thereunder during the said period; and
(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate/obviate the problem of malnutrition from the country including to provide tablets to tackle malnutrition in affected districts of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (d): A statement is placed on the table of the house.

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STATEMENT REFERRRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a to d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 198 FOR 11.12.2015 ON 'MALNUTRITION AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN'

(a) As per National Family Health Survey -3 (2005-06), 54.5% under five children belonging to Scheduled Tribes are underweight, 53.9% are stunted and 27.6% are wasted. However, as per the Rapid Survey on Children (RSoC), 2013-14, commissioned by Ministry of Women and Child Development, 36.7% under five children belonging to Schedule Tribes are underweight, 42.3% are stunted and 18.7% are wasted, which is a reduction from the previous NFHS-3 levels. The state-wise details are at Annexure-1.

Further, as per the NFHS-3, 46.6% women in the age group of 15 to 49 years belonging to Scheduled Tribes suffer from chronic energy deficiency. The state-wise details are at Annexure-2.

Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections. The causes are inadequate access to food, health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and environmental conditions, educational levels, income and socio-cultural factors like early marriage, etc. The situation is further compounded by ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections.

(b) This Ministry is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, 'Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)−'Sabla', and Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition among women and children. The details of these schemes is available in the Annual Report (2014-15) of the Ministry, which is available in the Library of Lok Sabha Secretariat and is also available on the Ministry's website, www.wcd.nic.in

The funds released during the last three years and the current year for these schemes along with achievements is at Annexure 3 to 8.

(c) Under the National Nutrition Mission, there are two components, namely

â€¢ Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign against malnutrition: In order to create awareness about nutrition challenges and promote home level feeding practices, a nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign against malnutrition was launched in November 2012. The first cycle was undertaken during the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and second cycle was undertaken during 2014-15.
â€¢ Multi-sectoral nutrition programme for prevention and reduction in child under-nutrition (underweight prevalence in children under 3 years of age) and reduction in levels of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women in 200 high-burden districts has been launched during the 12thFive Year Plan.

The budgetary allocation made and funds utilized under the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) during last three years and the current year is as below:

Financial Year Budget Estimates Revised Estimates Expenditure

(Rs in crore) (Rs in crore) (Rs in crore)
2012-13 250.00 83.00 55.69
2013-14 300.00 200.00 123.00
2014-15 300.00 20.00 20.00
2015-16 205.79 -- --

(d) The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations to address one or other aspect related to Nutrition.

As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech, 2014, a new National Nutrition Mission has been recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)which includes real time monitoring through ICT by giving tablets to the supervisors and smart phones to the Anganwadi workers.

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